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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Title VII Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

December 9, 2015 Borough Building, Soldotna, AK

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MEMBERS PRESENT:	Carolyn Choate Joycyln Graham John Kelly	Homer Flex (via Lync) Seward (via Lync) KPBSD School Board (via Lync)
STAFF PRESENT:	Conrad Woodhead Timothy Vlasak Maribeth Snell Melissa Linton Jennifer Freeman Bonnie Pierce	KPBSD Native Education Coordinator Director, Federal Programs and K-12 Schools Grants Specialist/Title I/Title VII/Migrant Ed. Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator Project GRAD Project GRAD
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Michael Bernard Shannon Dodge David J. Knight Elizabeth Standifer Marilyn Balluta Melissa McCord	Debra Shuey Analisa Seldon Julia Shanigan Emil McCord Teresa Smith Debra Shuey

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Conrad Woodhead opened the meeting with introductions of committee members, staff and public present at the meeting. Present from the Tebughna Foundation were Emil McCord, Julia Shanigan, Marilyn Balluta and Melissa McCord. Present from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe were Michael Bernard, Shannon Dodge, David J. Knight, Debra Shuey, Teresa Smith, Michael Bernard and Analisa Seldon.

### **II. PURPOSE**

Conrad then reiterated the purpose of KPBSD's Title VII program, which is to provide supplemental supports for Alaska Native and American Indian students for a successful experience throughout K-12 schooling years through prioritized targeted assistance.

### **III. NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED STUDENTS**

The number of identified Title VII students has risen from 1086 at the time of the October 8, 2015 meeting to 1142. The district is continuing its efforts to identify and enroll eligible students.

### **IV. ANSEP UPDATE**

Conrad reported on the recent participation of KPBSD students in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). The program is available for students grades 6-8 who are on track for 9<sup>th</sup> grade algebra by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This year 18 students participated and the feedback has been positive. Students collaborated on a variety of STEM projects with other Native students from around the state. Last year, 48 students participated. In addition to the science projects, students get to experience a college-like atmosphere by being exposed to different cultures and sharing accommodations. Since students can't attend ANSEP twice, follow-up is planned with the students who attended this year via Lync sessions to make sure they are aware of summer programs and transportation scholarships. The District is hoping that all 18 of its ANSEP participants also attend the ANSEP summer session.

## **V. PARTNERSHIP UPDATES**

Members present from our partnership organizations were allotted ten minutes each.

### **A. Project GRAD**

Jennifer Freeman presented an update for Project GRAD. Staff from Project Grad recently attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) mid-year conference in Mesa, Arizona. Conrad Woodhead and members of Kenaitze attended as well. Project GRAD is in the process of assembling an inter-tribal group of KPBSD students to go to a future conference. Twenty-three members of the Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leaders attended the Kenai Native Youth Olympics on January 23. They served food at the potluck as part of their community service requirement and 18 of those present had the opportunity to compete. The group took home five medals. For many of the students, it was their first time attending a Native Youth Olympics. Five Native Youth Leaders students from Seward High School attended the Native Youth Olympics in Seward and helped prepare Indian Tacos for the Qutekcak Native Tribe fundraiser. As of December 31, 2015, 402 students at the schools served by Project GRAD were eligible for membership in KPNYL. As of the meeting, 30% of that number have enrolled. Most of those students are currently working on a project based directly on individual student career and interest that are then connected back to student's personal culture. High school students can earn .5 leadership credit through their projects and service. Students will present their projects at the first inter-tribal Cultural Exchange Institute planned for August 1-7, 2016. Project GRAD will continue to expand their efforts to enroll more eligible students and plans to do a mailer to make more aware of the program.

### **B. Tebugna Foundation**

Emil McCord presented an update for the Tebugna Foundation. The Foundation has been operating since 2007. They offer service scholarships. They are looking for ways to make the foundation self-sufficient. In April they will host the Ida'ina Gathering in Anchorage. Ida'ina is Alaska's largest inter-tribal gathering, and dancers are coming from as far away as Turkey. The Foundation sponsors the blanket toss at Fur Rondy and hosted a Fiddle Dance in February. This month the Foundation will host the Ida'ina basketball tournament, Alaska's first cash tournament. They will host a golf tournament in 2016 and have the help of a PGA pro to help organize it. The Foundation places a lot of emphasis on education and is using a \$575,000 discretionary grant they received to improve education for Tebugna youth. The Foundation's efforts have increased attendance at Tebugna School to 93%. Weekly pizza parties are offered to encourage attendance and the student with the best attendance will get to go to the National Indian Education Conference in Nevada. The Foundation is considering constructing a living center in the village and inviting students from other villages to attend school there. They are also looking in to the possibility of boarding schools.

### **C. Kenaitze**

David Knight updated the Committee on the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. The Tribe is trying to fill a tutoring position and has received 15 applications in the month that the job has been posted. Out of the 15 received, 3 of the applicants are qualified. Once hired this tutor will work out of Mt. View Elementary, Kenai Middle School and for the Yaghanen Youth Program. Mt. View Elementary and Kenai Middle School will participate in the interview process. This is expected to be a multi-year position. Analisa Seldon added that the Tribe's strategic plan is to focus on education and praised Conrad's willingness to collaborate with tribal partnerships. Michael Bernard continued stating that this season has seen a lot of activity with the Native Youth Olympics with 750 youths participating in Anchorage and 100 in Seward. Their youth dance group will be going to Fairbanks. Overall, there are 71 youth in their program. One of their youths is going to Greenland. Their group also won the Team Sportsmanship Award while in Seward. He also thanked Bonnie and Jennifer for the help their students contributed during the invitational.

## **VI. FY 17 PRIORITIES**

Conrad lead the discussion stating that KPBSD would continue its serving its Title VII students through tutors offering targeted assistance, by participating in ANSEP and a continued partnership with Project Grad. Marilyn Balluta suggested another tutor at Tebugna School, Michael Bernard suggested cultural enhancement activities be added to the priorities. Bonnie Piece added that Native youth do better among their peers and that 80% of Central Peninsula Youth do not have a tribal link. Therefore, Project Grad looks for transportation money funding in order to be able to bring youth together. Elizabeth Standifer offered that the number one priority for

Tebughna School was tutoring, and suggested utilizing the school shop for cultural activities and teaching life survival skills. Bonnie Pierce said that the students she worked with said they would like to learn about other cultures.

#### **VII. Title VII ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS**

Conrad led the discussion regarding the Committee's by-laws. He had the chance to discuss by-laws with other attendees at the Unity Conference and found the Committee's by-laws to be very different than what similar committees do in other communities. As they stand at the moment, the KPBSD Title VII Advisory Committee could possibly consist of 43 representatives. By contrast, the Anchorage School District advisory committee has only seven representatives. Many questions were raised such as whether tribal membership in the committee would be voting or non-voting, and how to include more student representatives. It was decided that the discussion would be set for the next meeting on May 11, 2016. Conrad asked the Committee to report to him with suggestions for the by-laws by March 25, 2016.

#### **VIII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting set for May 11, 2016 from 2:30-4:30pm.